GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:539
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014
CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ON TEA PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that more than half of the country`s tea production comes from Assam;

(b) whether it is true that tea production in Assam is becoming increasingly challenging due to climate change;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to subsidize the production of tea in the country so that domestic producers could compete at the international level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) The production of tea in Assam has been on increase on year to year basis for the period from 2011-12 to 2012-13, as can be seen from the table given below.

However, during the current year, the production in Assam for the period from April-September, 2014 is less in comparison to corresponding period of last year mainly due to adverse weather conditions.

Year	Production (M. Kgs)
2011-12	581.26
2012-13	588.14
2013-14	629.09
2013-14 (Apr-Sep)	442.92
2014-15 (Apr-Sep)	414.09

(d) & (e) Tea Board implements a Scheme for Tea Development and Promotion with a view to support the production and manufacture of tea as well as improve quality and export of tea. As part of the Scheme, financial support is provided for replanting, replacement planting and rejuvenation of old aged tea bushes. With a view to improve the quality of teas produced in the country, a quality upgradation programme is being implemented to upgrade old tea machinery, value addition and quality certification. A scheme to incentivize the production of orthodox and green tea is also in operation.

Special attention is given towards improving the productivity of small holdings which account for nearly 33% of the total production in India. Having regard to significant contribution from small grower sector, a separate Directorate for addressing the developmental needs of the small growers has been set up with its headquarter at Dibrugarh, Assam.

Export of tea is supported by the Tea Boards through generic promotion in form of participation in fairs and exhibitions, trade facilitation through Buyer-Seller Meets, exchange of trade delegations (inbound & outbound), information dissemination through gathering of market intelligence etc.